



The Weekly Page

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 12, 2007

Pages Learn About Legislature

Big Ideas in Government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions, readings and simulated budget and committee hearing activities, their understandings around the concepts deepened.

Putting the Helmet On Issues

Today, Representative Alex Griffin introduced House bill 2479, which addresses the issue of causes of death and paralysis to many skiers and snowboarders. “The bill is a good one because there have been 38 fatalities and 42 injuries that have caused paralysis and I want to protect the citizens of this state and maybe worldwide,” said Representative Griffin. The bill states that ski resorts will require helmets for the consumers who will be on the slopes. If not followed, then the person and the ski resort will be fined. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Information Rights for Adoptees

Today, Representative Natasha Dunlap introduced House bill 2319, which addresses the issue of granting information regarding birth parents or families to adopted individuals at or after age 14, upon request. “The bill is a good one because there are many instances where adoptees need access to birth family records and information,” said Representative Dunlap. This bill will provide adopted individuals with the information they desire, either for health or personal reasons. There are, however, instances where such information is not available. The hope is to overcome laws and contracts preventing adoptees from learning of and about their birth parents, because there are many that were never allowed to see their birth parents or families. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.



Socratic Seminar investigates the question “Are Laws Necessary?”

On Monday pages engaged in a Socratic-style discussion, in which they shared stimulating insights and questions around the topic of necessary legislation for a representative democracy. Students created criteria for judging the value of a law.

Banning Abortion

Today, Senator Ashley Evans introduced Senate bill 5555, which addresses the issue of banning abortions performed as means of birth control. “The bill is a good one because 95% of abortions are performed as means of birth control and 24% of pregnancies in Washington state are aborted,” said Senator Ballantyne. The bill proposes putting a ban on abortion. Some exceptions would be cases involving rape, incest, fetal abnormalities and mother's health. If one of these incidents occurred, the woman in need of the abortion would need a certified doctor's approval. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Nutrition in Schools

Today, Senator Elizabeth Ferrie introduced Senate bill 4175, which addresses the issue of nutrition in school lunches. “The bill is a good one because it will reduce the level of obesity in children,” said Senator Frederick. This bill will require schools to offer only lunches that are below a certain level of fat. It will also lower children's fat intake and lead to better overall health.

The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Pages write bills

Pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were relevant to them. Topics for bills included Nutrition in Schools to Birth Certificates for Stillborn Babies. They reflected real issues that affect teenage lives in Washington State. Bills were later presented for consideration in the mock committee hearings toward the end of the week.



Equal Funds for All Students

Today, Senator Tyler Grimshaw, Chelsea Glogosh, and Kara Hutchinson introduced Senate bill 7777, which addresses the issue of equal distribution of education funds. "The bill is a good one because it will provide better funding for each kind of student; advanced, regular, and special-ed," said Senator Grimshaw. This bill will provide equal funding for each kind of student. This will be accomplished by raising taxes by 0.5 percent in the State of Washington. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

For Everyone, Equal Rights

Olympia, WA — Today, Senator Colleen Kimsey introduced Senate bill 4200, which addresses the issue of same-sex marriage. "The bill is a good one because of the unfairness in the current system of issuing marriage licenses. Same-sex couples aren't asking for preferential treatment in the eyes of the law. They just want the same rights and institutions that opposite-sex couples do," said Senator Kimsey. This bill in and of itself is fairly simple. If it passes, same-sex couples will be able to obtain marriage license in the state of Washington. But in the bill's full implications, same-sex couples would be able to divorce, receive spousal benefits, and have final say on medical decisions for their spouses. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Representatives Propose Relief for Students

Olympia, WA — Today, Representatives Megan Rasmussen and Kristina Tews introduced House bill 2222, which addresses the issue of lockers provided for students with heavy school supplies. "The bill is a good one because studies have shown that students are carrying an unhealthy percentage of school supplies to their own body weight," said Representatives Rasmussen and Tews. Our research shows that up to 10-20% of each student's body weight is an appropriate amount, yet most students are found carrying as much as one-third of their own body weight. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Pages lobby their own bills

Pages practiced lobbying techniques as they encouraged their colleagues to support their bills in mock committee hearings. They created media releases, "elevator talks," 1-page talking points and other aids to help in influencing their peers to vote for their legislation.

Proposed Stillborn Certificate Bill

Today, Representative Andrew Love introduced House bill 1283, which addresses the issue of birth certificates for stillborn births. "The bill is a good one because parents want to officially recognize the existence of their unborn child," said Representative Love. Previous parents were issued a death certificate but no birth certificate. This bill will help parents in the grieving process. Fourteen states already have laws to give parents Certificates of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Teens Require Letters For License

Olympia, WA — Today, Representative Cassandra Walsh introduced House bill 2741, which addresses the issue of teen drivers. "The bill is a good one because it keeps immature teens from endangering others," said Representative Walsh. This bill suggests that a student's maturity and responsibility should be assessed before they are given their driver's license. The letters will be written by the students' parents, drivers' ed. instructor, principal, counselor, and DOL staff member. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Raising The Minimum Wage

Today, Representative Tyler Wedrosky and Michael Marczewski introduced House bill 2510, which addresses the issue of raising the minimum wage. "The bill is a good one because families that are not meeting the standard of living with their current income will receive a much needed raise," said

Representative Wedrosky. This bill will raise the minimum wage from the current rate up to \$8.00 per hour. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Reduction in Energy Consumption

Olympia, WA — Today, Senator Zane Barnstien introduced Senate bill 4571, which addresses the issue of Energy Consumption. “The bill is a good one because it will reduce one of the leading sources of energy consumption in the common household,” said Senator Barnstien. This bill will hopefully extend the time of the oil age and buy more time for an alternative fuel source to present itself. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Sentencing Guidelines Raised

Today, Representatives Ian Ward and A.J. Peters introduced House bill 2500, which addresses the issue of sentencing guidelines for vehicular homicide while driving under the influence. “The bill is a good one because families now feel a greater sense of justice for the loss of their loved ones,” said Senator Ward. The bill proposes that the drunk driver serves no less than three years and no greater than seven years in a minimum security prison. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Monday 8, 2007.



Lowering The Voting Age

Olympia, WA — Today, Senator Kirsten Nee introduced Senate bill 4224, which addresses the issue of lowering the voting age. “The bill is a good one because it gives anyone aged 16 and older the right to vote and have a say in our government,” said Senator Nee. This bill allows citizens age 16 and over to vote and decide their own future. A sixteen year old already has all the necessary requirements and abilities to vote. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Guest speakers visit Page School



Senator Hewitt of the 16th District; Senator of Swecker of the 20th District; Kyle Thiessen, Code Reviser for the Washington State Legislature; and Representative Jim Dunn of the 17th District joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. Each spoke about what led them to their current positions and shared insightful information with the pages. Pages were able to interact with these guests and get their questions answered.

Overloaded Homework Hours Gone

Today, Senators Ben Lucas, Tessie LaMourea, and Alex Gattman introduced Senate bill 6870, which addresses the issue of homework overload on minors. “The bill is a good one because of the conditions that it sets up for students that have proven themselves to the education system; they are no longer punished for other's short-comings in the classroom,” said Senator Gattman. This bill will ensure that student's 3.4 or higher GPA is equivalent to that student's learning capability according to the student's instructors, legal guardians, and principal. If the students have proven to the school that they understand the curriculum, these students should not be given excessive homework, considering it will be proven that they already understand how to do it. The bill states that no minor with a GPA above their current academic level shall have more than four hours of homework a week from any one class. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Pages celebrate at Thursday pizza party

Thursday afternoon, pages took a break from their regular duties and socialized with each other while eating pizza. This was an opportunity for House and Senate pages to mingle at the Page Appreciation Pizza Party.



Jeopardy creates hit

On Friday pages tested their knowledge of the Legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.

Birth Certificates For Stillbirths

Olympia, WA — Today, Representative Craig Klumper and Representative Molly Jordan introduced House bill 1446, which addresses the issue of an act relating to stillbirths. “The bill is a good one because parents of stillbirths that wish to have a birth certificate for their deceased child can now have one,” said Representative Jordan. This bill allows the request of a biological parent to a stillborn birth certificate to be granted by the payment of the fee. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on Jan. 11, 2007.

Now Schools Can Start At 8:00 AM

Today, Representative Lydia Lippold-Gelb and Representative Rachel Meis introduced House bill 2589, which addresses the issue of high school starting time. “The bill is a good one because it will allow high school students to get more sleep,” said Representative Meis. Under this bill public high schools will not be allowed to start any earlier than 8:00 am. This will improve education, health, and safety because teenagers will be able to get more of the required ten hours of sleep that they need. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Voting Teenagers

Today, Senator Kirsten Nee and Kelly McCann introduced Senate bill 4224, which addresses the issue of 16 year olds to vote. “The bill is a good one because it shows that 16 year olds have met requirements,” said Senator Kelly McCann. California's suggestion is to have 14 though 15 years old have one-fourth of the

vote.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

High School Graduation Changes

Today, Senators Jennifer Peterson and Audry Urlatcher introduced Senate bill 4777, which addresses the issue of High School graduation requirements. “The bill is a good one because it allows students' tests to become personalized,” said Senator Peterson. If this bill is passed, it will let students choose between multiple standardized tests for graduation. These will include the WASL, SAT, or tests approved by other states. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Revolutionary Plan Proposed For Children

Today, Representative Jack Seidl and Representative Ricky Martinez introduced House bill 1001, which addresses the issue of health insurance for children throughout the state of Washington. “The bill is a good one because the time for a universal health care plan for the children of Washington is now,” said Representative Seidl. This bill will provide the health care plan WCHIP (Washington Children's Health Care Plan) to every child in Washington, from birth to the age of 18. This plan will pay for medical procedures including doctor and dental services, clinic and hospital services, and pediatric care. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Historical pages

Our Legislature has employed pages for many years. This photo is of pages who served in past years. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members.



Homeless to be Saved through New Acts

Today, Representative Sydney Odell introduced House bill 2974, which addresses the issue of Homelessness. "The bill is a good one because homelessness over the past several years has become a major issue all over the nation," said Representative Odell. Odell claims that through the helping of homeless persons who suffer from addictions and disabilities we can help to restore the well being of Washington State and add to this nation's economy. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Committees debate bills, vote

Simulated committee hearings were held on Thursday. Pages read their bills and "committee members," governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A "DO PASS" or "DO NOT PASS" recommendation was then voted upon, allowing a bill to continue on in the legislative process. As in the real process, some bills died in committee.



Birth Certificates for Stillborn Infants

Today, Representative Taylor Russell and Hannah Hassinger introduced House bill 3592, which addresses the issue of parents of stillborn infants not being allowed birth certificates. "The bill is a good one because parents in the incident of a stillborn birth want proof that they actually had a baby," said Representative Russell. The bill would give parents the opportunity to receive a birth certificate along with the death certificate, which they will have already obtained. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Aid for Homeless Youth Proposed

Olympia, WA — Today, Senators Bailey Stober and Leah Tangeman introduced Senate bill 9999, which addresses the issue of Youth Homelessness and Poverty. "The bill is a good one because it will take the nearly 200,000 homeless teens and provide them with shelter and training to compete in our competitive economy," said Senator Stober. The bill will ask the Legislature to allocate 6 million dollars from the Rainy Day Fund and put it

towards the program. With the money we will provide temporary housing as well as training to enter the work force of Washington.. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11th, 2007.



Prevention of Ski Deaths and Injuries

Today, Senators Jacqueline Striggow and Mercedes Popp introduced Senate bill 4320, which addresses the issue of Ski Safety. "The bill is a good one because it is there to help the skiers in a time were they need head protection," said Senator Striggow. This bill is to help skiers and snowboarders be safe on the slopes. This also will reduce the trips to the hospital. The most important reason for this bill is to help prevent deaths for people of every age. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 07.

To Much Nicotine?

Olympia, WA — Today, Representatives Anna Neiman and Lianne Johnstone introduced House bill 1000, which addresses the issue of reducing the amount of nicotine in cigarettes. "The bill is a good one because it will reduce addiction to the powerful and harmful drug nicotine," said Representatives Neiman and Johnstone. This bill will put a limit on percentage of nicotine that companies can put in their cigarettes. The bill was heard before the Page School legislative committee on January 11, 2007.

Tax Break for Global Warming

Today, Senator Dillan Miller, Nadine Mortell, and Drew Norton introduced Senate bill 4023, which addresses the issue of air pollution and global warming. "The bill is a good one because these problems need to be fixed before it is to late," said Senator Dillan Miller. Our bill will award citizens who purchased hybrid cars. They will be awarded a tax break of twice the amount of the sales tax of the purchased car. The bill was heard before the Page Committee on January 11, 2007.

Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at: www1.leq.wa.gov/WorkingwithLeg/PageSchool/. This newsletter has been posted there.